

LITERACY ACTION CENTER NEWS

www.LiteracyActionCenter.org

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20TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY DIEGO VELASQUEZ

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the *Literacy Action Center (LAC)*. The LAC has been committed to providing free, effective, and confidential education to adult learners with a reading level below the fifth grade. The LAC has helped more than 2,166 adults learn to read. LAC continues to benefit more people in the community each year.

The LAC's success is due to

the dedicated staff and volunteers. Volunteers put forth the effort to not only tutor their adult learners, but to remain open-minded and willing to explore new tutoring techniques and aids. Throughout the LAC's years of non-profit service, the tutors have developed their teaching skills and have allowed the adult learners' needs and goals to guide their methods. The LAC focuses much of their attention

on the encouragement and support of the use of the adult learner's literacy skills in daily life.

The LAC has been taking direct action towards the betterment of our society for the past 20 years and plans to continue to do so as long as the need is present. This is a nonprofit organization that has helped many fellow citizens live in a way some of us take for granted.

LAC GOES LIVE MICHELLE LEMPERT



Debra and Sandra at the Salt Lake City Library.

On October 17, we enjoyed *Sine Cera*, a public reading of poetry and short stories. Contributors to the anthology *Sine Cera* read their writings in front of a crowd of about 60 people. Of the contributors to the anthology, five were adult learners from the Literacy Action Center.

The DiverseCity Writing Series, a project of the Community Writing Center (CWC), consist of four

separate writing groups that come together twice a year for an anthology and a public reading. One of the four groups is comprised entirely of adult learners from the Literacy Action Center.

In August, each of these five adult learners from LAC polished one piece of writing for publication in *Sine Cera*, a *DiverseCity Writing Series Anthology*.

(Continued on page 2)

AT THE DUCK PARK CLIFF-ADULT LEARNER

My tutor and I were at the duck park. We were sitting on a bench. I was reading. The South Salt Lake Police drove up in a car. He came from 5th East through the parking lot on to the lawn right up to us. He ran at us. My first thought was, "I am in trouble again." I was scared and nervous.

He said, "Have you seen anyone in the creek?"

"No, we did not see anyone in the creek," I told him. Then the

paramedics showed up on the lawn and they ran across the lawn to help. Then my tutor and I got up and looked around and found that things were fine. We were relieved and also relieved that they weren't after us.

We went and sat down for a minute to read. A lady with her dog rode her bike by us and looked at us with a big smile that said, "Good job for learning!"

For more accomplishments, see page 3.



Janelle and Cliff reading under a tree.

Does your adult learner have a story to tell? Send it to us today for the next newsletter.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Literacy Action Center (LAC) provides basic literacy education for English-speaking adults. This literacy education: enhances the individual's quality of life; is free, effective, and confidential; and delivered by a combination of professional staff and volunteer tutors.

LAC specializes in helping adults who are reading below a fifth grade level when they enter the program.

ACCELEREAD™: A GREAT BENEFIT TO LEARNERS ERIC MCFARLAND

AcceleREAD™ software was donated to the Literacy Action Center. If used every other day for seven minutes, the AcceleREAD™ software promises to improve your reading speed. Here's one success story that demonstrates a case where the AcceleREAD™ software markedly helped improve an adult's reading speed.

For the last five months, Lori has been using this software

three times a week. She started the program reading about 180 words per minute. After completing the 13 lessons in the program four times, Lori continues to read around 500 words per minute. That is almost a 300% increase.

More importantly, Lori now has the ability to choose a reading speed, based on the material she is reading. She realizes that, depending

upon her reading purpose, she has the option of a full range of reading speeds from which to choose. Best of all is the feeling of success she gets. Lori enthusiastically says, "I'm excited about it. I would definitely recommend this to anyone. It really does work—it's fun!"

We thank AcceleREAD™ for the software. This software is available at the LAC office for others to use, too.



Lori after completing a learning session with the AcceleREAD™ software.

"Learning to read made me hungry for more knowledge and fulfilled a void in my life that I never thought could be filled. I've got a whole new life since I learned to read."

-Ramona

LITERACY MOTIVATION CHRISTINA OLSON

On June 20, tutors from the Literacy Action Center enjoyed a Tutor Talk from Carol Sansone, Ph.D. The title of her presentation was "Motivation: Who Cares?"

As a professor of psychology at the University of Utah, Sansone offered a unique perspective on the psychology of motivation.

According to Sansone, each person starts with different attitudes and reasons for improving literacy. Some are motivated because they

are intrinsically interested in reading. Others, because they hope to use literacy as a means for achieving other goals.

"The role of tutors is to help provide learners with motivations to persist even when learning may be difficult," suggested Sansone.

By the end of the evening, the tutors and staff of the Literacy Action Center had gained a greater understanding of the psychol-

ogy behind motivation and how to use this understanding to better help learners.

Sansone's talk was the latest in a continuing series of workshops for tutors at the Literacy Action Center.

The quarterly workshops, called Tutor Talks, teach tutors to better help their learners on the road to literacy. The next Tutor Talk will be held June 8, 2004 and all tutors are encouraged to attend.

LAC GOES LIVE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Some of LAC's writers didn't have enough word knowledge to actually write a legible story on paper. Instead, they shared their wonderful stories through dictation. Their story ideas took shape and blossomed. Then they used these dictated stories as texts for practicing reading. As Deneane Tidwell read to the crowd, "Over time, we

can make this happen."

Sara Gunderson, director of the DiverseCity writing series, stated, "The reading was absolutely fantastic! A big thanks to all those who participated!"

This free writing workshop continues and is open to all adult learners and volunteers. If you are interested in attending,

please call our office today.

The writers from this workshop will contribute to the next anthology. The next reading will be May 14, 2004 at Sam Weller Books. Everyone is invited.



UNIVERSITY OF UTAH BENNION CENTER

Special Thanks to Emily Bates who works in conjunction with the University of Utah's Bennion Center and the LAC. She has been responsible for recruiting tutors and other volunteers from the University of Utah to help LAC. Thank you, Emily, for all you have done for the LAC.

LEARNER ACCOMPLISHMENTS APRIL 2003-JANUARY 2004

All information is reported under tutors' names.

Allene Keller's learner: Read 4 books; wrote journal about his daughter

Angela Lucero's learner: Read 4 books; raised academic achievement score by 2 levels; kept journal

Angela Stoker's learner: Read 1 book; read a story independently after practicing with an audio tape

Anna Brassington's learner: Read 12 books; wrote first letter & thank you note; wrote recipe book as gift for his daughter

Annette DeFries's learner: Read 20 books; wrote a story using the words: quit, pin, and bud

Bernice Young's learner: Read 6 books; wrote letter, recipe, & job list for kids in cursive writing; lead a lesson at her son's Cub Scout pack meeting; signed her name in cursive at the bank; read signs in the community

Betty Chamberlain's learner: Worked on high school diploma; became more familiar with government forms

Bill Jorgensen's learner: Read 5 books; wrote short letters, stories, & party invitations

Christina Olson's learner: Read a story several times to his tutor then read it to his children

Cynthia Beckstrand's learner: Read 4 books; kept a journal

Danetta Hantla's learner: Wrote letters to family; wrote about current events

David Crowley's learner: Read 6 books including a 220 page book in one week; wrote a page per week in autobiography with cohesive paragraphs

Debra Dean's learner: Read 12 books; read the newspaper daily; improved spelling and confidence

Debra Scott's learner: Read 83 books, read story written by her husband; attended writing classes; wrote a story

Demie Moore's learner: Sent e-mails

Diana Trujillo's learner: Read 1 book; became more aware of pronunciation

Donna Kunkel's learner: Read 20 books

Earleen Richardson's learner: Wrote story; bought her first dictionary

Gerry Hanni's learner: Completed *LWR SB3*; wrote notes to his sons; wrote many stories

Gill Winters's learner: Read 1 book; dictated a recipe to her tutor

Hillary Diven's learner: Practiced reading aloud fluently, became more confident

Jane Chesley's learner: Read 2 books; increased his sight words

Janelle Jeffs's learner: Wrote a letter to his tutor, a protest letter to unemployment, & a vacation story

Jarom Gilstrap's learner: Received her US citizenship

Jenny Gilbert's learner: Got new job as custodian

Jill Vanderwood's learner: Read 2 books

Jim Farr's learner: Increased his sight words

Jim Fenton's learner: Read 3 books

Joan Elliott's learner: Read 15 books; read maps; wrote very first story in his life

Judy Gilbert's learner: Read a Mother's Day card and added a note of his own; wrote a birthday letter to his grandmother; improved his spelling

Karen Wallace's learner: Read 23 books; kept a journal; increased her sight words

Kate Sturgeon's learner: Read 64 books; got new job as custodian

Kelly Murphy's learner: Read 2 books; got her library card

Ken Harris's learner: Read 7 books; worked on high school diploma; read with his son

Kevin McPartland's learner: Attended writing classes

Leah Poulsen's learner: Read 26 books

Les Fulsome's learner: Attended writing classes

Linda Roth's learner: Completed *LWR SB3*

Loretta Johnson's learner: Sent e-mails

Louise Cofield's learner: Completed *Challenger 1*; read 7 books; learned to budget her money to pay for the Internet; sent e-mails; read websites; wrote 70 journal entries

Louise Day's learner: Completed *LWR SB1 & SB2*; sent e-mails; wrote letters to family members; read blueprints; read 85% of a damage report for his job

Marci Button's learner: Wrote stories; increased his sight words

Margaret Archibald's learner: Read a newspaper story for the first time in his life

Margaret Olivias's learner: Got his library card; made a color-coded chart of his words

Marie Davis's learner: Increased her sight words

Mark Wickham's learner: Read 59 books; attended writing classes

Owena Johansen's learner: Completed *LWR SB1*; increased her sight words

Patricia Beck's learner: Read 19 books

Raquel McKimmy's learner: Kept a journal

Rebecca Potter's learner: Read 4 books; completed *LWR SB2*; sent a letter to a co-worker; got her passport

Ron Jones's learner: Read 2 books; wrote about going to the airport in his journal

Roy Bodily's learner: Read 3 books; dictated a story

Ruth Magar's learner: Wrote a story

Teresa Odell's learner: Worked on high school diploma; increased his sight words

Terry Ingersoll's learner: Read 11 books; worked on high school diploma; got a library card; wrote "what she learned" summaries at the end of each tutoring session

Todd Sutton's learner: Wrote a letter to his Mom and typed it on a Christmas card; read 95% of an article in the newspaper; filled out a form at his doctor's office and an application; read signs in stores

Veronica Ahmed's learner: Attended writing classes

NEEDS:

P Bookcases

P Ink-Jet Printer

P Bus Tokens

P Community groups to

purchase and serve

lunch at Tutor Trainings

Other volunteers needed immediately:

P webmaster P bookkeeper P accountant

If you are able to help, please call (801) 265-9081.

TUTORS TRAINED JUNE 2003-MARCH 2004

WELCOME, NEW TUTORS! Congratulations to the following volunteers!

Leslie Allen	Beth Davis	Colyn Kilmer
Cleopatra Alvarado	Nicole DeFriez	Melissa Kimmel
Arlene Anderson	Ed Ediger	Caroline Kirkpatrick
Margaret Archibald	Leslye Evans-Lane	Brandt Larsen
Bill Bailey	Ann Ford	Raquel McKimmy
Emily Bates	Kathy Frye	Teresa Odell
Rebekah Battige	Dianne Garcia	Anne-Celeste Openshaw
Patricia Beck	Kelly Garrett	Gabriela Ramirez
Bruce Bemis	Andrea Gilstrap	Earleen Richardson
Maria Block	Jarom Gilstrap	Tori Sebek
Steve Boban	Margery Gold	Sandy Shelton
Anna Brassington	Carol Greely	April Smith
Lonis Brison	Jeanne Gunter	Pat Smith
Angel Bunker	Laura Hickenlooper	Mona Torgersen
Danna Burlingame	Rex Jensen	Diana Trujillo
Jo Carmoil	Janet Jernigan	Kristen Von Rosen
Trina Clayton	Mikail Keate	Barbara Wagner
Diana Cook	Sharley Keate	Gene Winchester
Alegria Da Silva		

**Special thanks to the
BYU Women's Conference
for preparing this
newsletter for mailing.**

Looking for companies
and volunteers for the
Workplace Literacy
Program. Call
801/265-9081
for details.

WORKPLACE LITERACY PROGRAM UNDERWAY

Literacy Action Center is partnering with English Skills Learning Center to bring work-related literacy skills to employees at local companies. Some classes are held at businesses and some at community locations. All on-site classes focus on the literacy skills needed to perform specific jobs. Deborah Young, Literacy Action Center's director, says, "Finding employees who speak little English has been easy. Now we need to find the employees whose only language is English but need help with reading and writing."

We are now seeking companies and employees who can speak English but need help with reading and writing. We are also looking for volunteers to be part of the teams teaching these adults. The one-year funding for this Program comes from a federal Social Services Block Grant administered through Salt Lake County. Call Literacy Action Center 265-9081 for more information about this Workplace Literacy Program.

**Executive Director**

Deborah Young, Ed.D.

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Newsletter Editors**Special Thanks**to University of Utah's
students for editing this issue:

Brooke Pettegrew

Diego Velasquez

Eric McFarland

Ryan Woolston

The Literacy Action Center (LAC) is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide volunteer tutoring services to help English-speaking adults improve their basic reading and writing skills. LAC is affiliated with ProLiteracy, a national organization.

The LAC Board of Trustees meets monthly at the Center and publishes a quarterly newsletter.

**DONATIONS: APRIL 2003-FEBRUARY 2004
MEMORIALS/FOUNDATIONS/CORPORATIONS/GOVERNMENT**

In Memory of

P Nona Yocum

Up to \$999

- P 3M Health Info Systems
- P Blaine N. & Barbara W. Harmon Charitable Foundation
- P Booksellers Association
- P Harris & Amanda Simmons Foundation
- P United Way of Davis County
- P United Way of Salt Lake
- P UT State Employees' Charitable Fund
- P Wells Fargo Community Support Campaign

\$1,000-\$4,999

- P Anonymous Foundation
- P Ruth E. & John E. Bamberger Foundation
- P Bank of American Fork
- P Byrne Foundation
- P Citigroup Foundation
- P Community Development Block Grant (West Valley City & Salt Lake County)
- P Lawrence & Janet Dee Foundation
- P Henry W. & Leslie M. Eskuche Foundation
- P King Family Foundation
- P Masonic Foundation of Utah
- P Larry H. Miller Charities
- P PacifiCorp Foundation for Learning
- P Private Foundation
- P Steiner Foundation
- P Utah Families Foundation

\$5,000-\$9,999

- P Errol P. EerNisse Family Foundation
- P Raymond Family Foundation
- P Social Services Block Grant (Salt Lake County) in partnership with English Skills Learning Center for Workplace Literacy Program

\$10,000+

- P George S. & Dolores D. Eccles Foundation
- P Federal Adult Basic Education grant through Utah State Office of Education
- P Qwest Foundation

WEST VALLEY—SURPRISE SUCCESS ERIC MCFARLAND

Like receiving an unexpected check in the mail, the Literacy Action Center was the recipient of "money in the mail." In May of 2003, three adult learners from the LAC and director Deborah Young attended a meeting at the West Valley City hall.

Many people were in attendance that night. The majority of topics discussed by the officials were that of zoning.

Oliver, who attended the meeting, mentioned, "I enjoyed hearing what was going on in West Valley. It was the first time I had heard the city mayor and council members speak."

The agenda items ran long. As the hours passed, Young worried there wouldn't be an opportunity to speak before two of the adults with her had to catch their bus. When the

Community Development Block Grant funding was finally discussed, they realized that the LAC had not been allotted money.

Since funding was not a possibility, it was still an opportunity to promote the LAC organization and give the adults a chance to practice public speaking. Young and two of the adult learners spoke to the council members and mayor anyway.

City officials listened to the plight of the adults served by the LAC program. Young stated, "Just as we were sitting down, city officials unexpectedly gave us some money to use to help West Valley City adults learn to read." In a simple attempt to make the LAC known to the city, the city acknowledged them by gifting unexpected money. *Thank you!*

PLEASE DONATE

As you know, many English-speaking adults in our community struggle with reading. If you have not made a contribution to Literacy Action Center recently, we would appreciate your donation of any size. Your donation is used to educate and support our wonderful volunteer tutors who devote time to help adults improve their reading.

I want to help solve the adult literacy problem. Here is my tax-deductible contribution of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 Other
(Please Check One)

I am a *double* donor! I am also a volunteer with Literacy Action Center.

Thanks for supporting the cause of literacy! Please return this form in the enclosed envelope.

Send your check to Literacy Action Center, 3595 S. Main Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84115

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LAC Office Closed: The LAC is closed on May 31, July 5, July 23, and September 6.

Writing Group Meetings: The writing group meets the 1st and 3rd Fridays of every month. Everyone is welcome to participate and write!

CWC Authors' Reading: May 14, 6 pm, at Sam Weller Books. (2 Adult Learners from LAC will be reading their original works)

Tutor Training: May 15 & 22 or September 18 & 25. Call 265-9081 to register.

Tutor Talks: All tutors are encouraged to attend these Talks. Light refreshments are served.

"Communicating Effectively: Better Communication Using 'Validation' Techniques," *June 8*, Tuesday, 6:30-8:00pm, at DATC, Kaysville.

"Overcoming Writer's Block: Helping your Adult Learner Use LEA," *June 10*, Thursday, 6:30-8:00pm, at LAC office.

"Exercising the Brain," *August 12*, Thursday, 6:30-8:00pm, at LAC office.

Junque Sale: Sponsored by *Soroptimist International* of Bountiful. Saturday, June 12, 8:00am-12:00pm next to *Robintino's Restaurant*, 1345 South 500 West, Bountiful. Buy lots of stuff because a small part of the proceeds may be donated to LAC!

LAC Fundraiser: "Jazz on a Summer Evening," Wednesday, August 18, 6-9 PM, at Em's Restaurant, 271 North Center Street, Salt Lake City. ALL proceeds from this event go to LAC. **Call Today!**



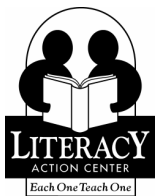
Jazz on a Summer Evening
A Benefit for the Literacy Action Center

August 18, 2004 6:00 p.m.
Music, Silent Auction, Light refreshments
Em's Restaurant, 271 N. Center St., SLC
\$35 per person
Call 801/265-9081 for reservations!

Call Today!



Check us out at www.LiteracyActionCenter.org
See website for volunteer and paid opportunities.



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